THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Steel production in India has continued to grow at a steady pace and the growth rate over the past fifteen years has been about 7% per annum

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) In a liberalized and deregulated environment the Government acts as a facilitator in fostering growth of the steel sector. The National Steel Policy (NSP) seeks to promote consumption of steel through promotional efforts, creation of awareness about the benefits of steel usage and strengthening the delivery chain. In collaboration with the steel producers an Institute for Steel Development and Growth (INSDAG) has been functioning for promotion of steel consumption, particularly in the construction sector. Through market analysis and research the INSDAG has been setting up design prototypes and offering consultancy for steel intensive construction. Increased use of steel would automatically lead to reduction in utilization of other alternate materials.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

Development of mining blocks of SAIL

1327. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAIL has developed any new mining blocks during the last two years and augmented loading facilites;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(c) the future programme of new mining blocks, so far, approved and in the pipeline identified upto 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) The following mining blocks have been developed by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the last two years. Development of these blocks is a continuous activity.

(i) Chasnalla Colliery:

- Deep Mine-13 Seam (west)

- Upper seam-16 B Seam (East & West), 16 A Seam (East)

(ii) Jitpur Colliery:

15 Seam (Bottom), 16 Seam (Bottom) & 17 Seam (Bottom)

(iii) Ramnagore Colliery:

- Salanpur 'C Seam (Quarry) has been started this year which is a part of Salanpur Group of Seams ('A', 'C, D1, D2 etc) of which Salanpur 'A' has been worked and exhausted.

The process for developing new iron ore mining block and coal block has been initiated at

(i) South block adjacent to Kiriburu iron ore mine in Jharkhand

(ii) Central block adjacent to Meghataburu iron ore mine in Jharkhand

(iii) Chiria (Manoharpur) iron ore reserves in Jharkhand

(iv) Taldih iron ore mine in Orissa (v)

Thakurani iron ore mine in Orissa

(vi) Rowghat iron ore mine in Chhattisgarh

(vii) Tasra Coal block in Jharkhand

(viii) Chasnalla colliery - Deep mine seam 12,13/14 and 15 upper seam-16A seam (west), 16 seam (west and east), 17 Spl. Seam

(ix) Jitpur colliery- 12 Seam (Top), 13 Seam (Top)

Loading capacity at Bolani iron ore mines is being augmented from present level of 3.4 MTPAto 5.0 MTPA of iron ore.

(c) The future program of SAIL for development of new mining blocks is as follows:

Iron Ore Mine

(i) In view of the depleting reserve of present mining block at Kiriburu the adjacent South Block deposit to Kiriburu is being developed to process 5 MT (ROM) by 2009-10.

(ii) In view of the depleting reserve of present mining block at Meghataburu the adjacent Central block deposit is being developed to process 5 MT (ROM) by 2008-09.

(iii) Taldih block within Barsua-Kalta-Taldih lease hold has been planned to be developed to a mechanized mine 4.25 MTPA (ROM) capacity with beneficiation facility by 2011-12.

(iv) The reserved area within the Thakurani-A block in Keonjhar district of Orissa shall be developed into a mechanized mine by 2009-10.

(v) Process for development of Rowghat iron ore mine in the State of Chhattisgarh ana Chiria (Manoharpur) in the state of Jharkhand has been initiated.

. The development of these blocks would depend upon grant of forest clearance, environment clearance and renewal/grant of leases.

Coal Mine

(i) Tasra coking coal block in Jharkhand.

(ii) Chasnalla & Jitpur Collieries-deep Mine-9 Seam & 10/11 Seam, upper Seam 3rd Horizon.

(iii) Jitpur Colliery-12 Seam

(iv) Ramnagore Coliery-At Laikdih Ramnagore Seam Quary, Scientific exploitation is being carried out.

Reduction in steel production by producers

† 1328. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.